

WHAT IS GOING ON IN AMERICA?



**VALLEY GRACE BRETHREN CHURCH
SEPTEMBER 21ST, AD 2025**

THE LORD'S DAY

The Twenty-first Day of September, *in the Year of our Lord 2025*



- ONE - IS - YOUR - MASTER - AND - ALL - YE - ARE - BRETHREN -



Welcome to the worship services of Valley Grace Brethren Church!

Sunday School—9:30 AM.

Our studies continue on the impact of the Reformation.

Morning Worship—10:30 AM.

Call to Worship:* *"Praise God From Whom All Blessings"* (#554).

Invocation.*

Hymn: *"How Great Thou Art"* (#2).

Prayer for Tithes & Offerings.

Scripture Reading: *I Peter 3:8-17.*

Prayer, Praises, & Testimony.

Hymn: *"Faith of our Fathers"* (#550).

Announcements.

Hymn: *"Great is Thy Faithfulness"* (#39).

Dismissal of Youth for Children's Church.

Message: *"WHAT'S GOING ON IN AMERICA?"*

Closing Hymn:* *"Praise Ye the Triune God"* (#24; vv. 1-3).

Benediction.*

Midweek Prayer & Bible Study: Thurs., 9/25, 6:30 PM



Week of Sept. 14 – Sept. 20:

Sunday School: 9; Morning Worship: 18; Midweek: 7;

Weekly Offering: \$1,063.⁰⁰

HOLY COMMUNION: OCT. 12, 1:00 PM



Our Threefold Communion is open to all brethren who have placed their trust exclusively in the Lord Jesus Christ for their salvation and who are able to partake of the Holy Ordinance in a reverent and worthy manner (I Cor. 11:26-30).

Cultural Neo-Marxism vs. Biblical Christianity:

Pastor Terry L. Reese, Valley GBC, Armagh, PA; 7/05/2020 (rev. 9/20/25)

“Critical Theory” is the vital Worldview that guides the thought of the **Far-Left Social Justice Movement**, and which also informs the sentiments of its **progressive allies**. In essence, Critical Theory views all of reality through the lens of power struggle, dividing people into **oppressed groups vs. oppressor groups**, in accordance with various distinctions such as race, class, gender, sexual orientation, age, and physical ability.

Marxist Origins: “Critical Theory” derives its basic concept of social power-dynamics from Karl Marx and was further developed by the neo-Marxist Frankfurt School in the 1920’s & 30’s. It has since evolved into a broad school of thought that has generated a foundational set of beliefs for a variety of modern disciplines, including race, feminist, educational, and gender studies.

I. The Core Beliefs of Modern Marxist Critical Theory

A. According to CT, our individual identities are inseparable from our group identities as either **oppressor** or **oppressed**, in relation to a given **identity marker** (such as race or gender).

If you are part of an Oppressor Group, you *cannot* simply say that *you*, as an individual, are not a *racist*. *You are part of an **oppressor group***.

“Old white guys” are *oppressors*; thus, the idea of **“white privilege.”**

B. Oppressor groups subjugate the oppressed through their use of hegemonic power. They (e.g., heterosexuals, whites, men, Christians, etc.) establish the norms through which others are judged. They impose their values upon all of society not through open oppression, but rather, through their influence.

C. Our fundamental moral duty is to “free the oppressed.” It is rare for Critical Theorists to speak of traditional ethics like *honesty, chastity, self-control, generosity, kindness, etc.* Instead, ethical behavior is all about dismantling “unjust power structures.”

D. “Lived experience” is more vital and important than objective evidence in understanding oppression. *Personal experience and narrative* are substituted for rational thought. Oppressed people have a special insight that is unattainable to those from oppressor groups. If you are an oppressor, you must *shut-up and listen*, rather than challenge the claims of the oppressed. *Their* experience outweighs *your* logic and empirical evidences.

OVER →

E. Oppressors seek to hide their oppressive ways under the guise of reasonable argument, objectivity, and logic. Critical Theorists seek to ascribe *motives* to their opponents, rather than weigh various evidences and ascertain *truth*.

F. Individuals at the intersection of different oppressed groups experience oppression in unique ways. This is called *Intersectionality*; e.g., white women & black women are *both* oppressed, but have experienced different *levels* of oppression.

II. Critical Theory's (CT) Incompatibility to Christianity.

A. A whole different worldview. An all-encompassing worldview explains basic *reality*, telling us who we are, what our *basic problem* is, what the *solution* is, and what our *moral duties* are.

Christianity is about Creation, Fall, Redemption, & Restoration.

Critical Theory: No Creation (our identity is defined by our relationship to other *men*, not to *God*), Oppression (the problem), Activism (the solution), and Social Liberation (salvation).

B. Christianity has a different epistemology (i.e., how we *know* things), believing in rational objective truth and logic, focusing upon the question “*Is something TRUE, or is it FALSE?*” Christians have an objective truth-source—**Scripture**—coming from the very **GOD of TRUTH** (Isa. 65:16)!

C. CT adopts a strict Marxist adversarial relationship between the *oppressors & the oppressed*. Christianity, however, sees 3 basic markers of **shared common identity** among men:

- 1) **Creation**: a common bond; all are created in the Image and likeness of God (Gen. 1:27), and are of equal value and dignity.
- 2) **Sin**: **All have sinned** (Rom. 3:23); in common, we need mercy and forgiveness; mankind is **united in rebellion** against God
- 3) **Redemption**: Distinctions between men are demoted in importance by **redemption**. We have Good News! We can be reconciled in Christ and become real brothers & sisters (Gal. 3:28)!

D. Christianity does seek to promote “hegemonic” truth! There **is** one God, one Faith, one Way of Salvation (John 14:6, Acts 4:12), and one True Story; we *cannot* “celebrate diversity” when it comes to truth, doctrine, ethics, and morals!

E. Christianity repudiates CT's class-based **ethical relativism and **moral asymmetry**** (i.e., ethical demands *vary* in accordance with what “social group” one belongs to). Rather, Christians affirm a *universal* moral code and *impartiality* towards all persons.